

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing distributed text-to-speech synthesis by a telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the method comprising the steps of:

a1 receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network;

determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call;

placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;
sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of ~~determining~~;
sending the ringing signal;

converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving;

encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding; and

sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the telephone network route the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of sending the data stream; and

routing the telephone call through the telephone network from the first telephone subscriber over the first communication channel unit to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of receiving the request.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
~~placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;~~
~~sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first~~

91 ~~communication channel responsive to the step of placing, wherein the step of retrieving the text information is performed responsive to the step of sending the ringing signal;~~

receiving a request from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the telephone network route the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit;

stopping the sending of the ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of receiving the request;

taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold responsive to the step of stopping; and
routing the telephone call through the telephone network from the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

determining that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful responsive the step of sending the data stream and responsive to a response from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit is successful, wherein the step of receiving the request is responsive to the step of determining that the

transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:
sending a ringing signal to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive the step of sending the data stream, wherein the step of receiving the request is responsive to the step of sending the ringing signal.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:
converting the text information from a first data format to a second data format suitable for text-to-speech synthesis prior to the step of converting the text information into symbols.

al 7. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the symbols further comprise phonemic and prosodic information.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the symbols further comprise spectral and prosodic feature parameters.

9. (Original) A method for performing distributed text-to-speech synthesis by a telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network;

determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call;
placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;

sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of determining;

converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving;

encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding;

sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening;

ai sending a ringing signal to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of sending the data stream;

receiving a request from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the telephone network route the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of sending the ringing signal to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel;

stopping the sending of the ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of receiving the request;

taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold responsive to the step of stopping; and

routing the telephone call through the telephone network from the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

determining that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful responsive the step of sending the data stream and responsive to a response from the second telephone subscriber unit that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to

the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful, wherein the step of sending the ringing signal is responsive to the step of determining that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the symbols further comprise phonemic and prosodic information.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the symbols further comprise spectral and prosodic feature parameters.

al 13. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of:
converting the text information from a first data format to a second data format suitable for text-to-speech synthesis prior to the step of converting the text information into symbols.

14. (Original) A method for performing distributed text-to-speech synthesis by a telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network;

determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call;

placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;

sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of determining;

converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving;

encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding;

sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening;

determining that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful
responsive the step of sending the data stream and responsive to a response from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the transmission of the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel is successful;

sending a ringing signal to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of determining that the transmission of the data stream over the second communication channel is successful;

receiving a request from the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel that the telephone network route the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of sending the ringing signal to the second telephone subscriber unit;

stopping the sending of the ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of receiving the request;

taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold responsive to the step of stopping; and

routing the telephone call through the telephone network from the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of taking the first telephone subscriber unit off hold.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the symbols further comprise phonemic and prosodic information.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the symbols further comprise spectral and prosodic feature parameters.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 14 further comprising the step of:
converting the text information from a first data format to a second data format suitable for text-to-speech synthesis prior to the step of converting the text information into symbols.

18-36. (Withdrawn)

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37. (Currently Amended) A telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the telephone network comprising:

a central telephone office for performing a step of receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network;

a service control point, coupled to the central telephone office, for performing a step of determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call;

a network services node, coupled to the central telephone office and the service control point, for performing steps of:

retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of determining;

converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving; and

encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

wherein the central telephone office further performs steps of:

placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;

sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding; and

sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening.

91 38. (Currently Amended) A telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the telephone network comprising:

means for performing a step of receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network;

means for performing a step of determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call;

means for placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;

means for sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

means for performing a step of retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of determining;

means for performing a step of converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving;

means for performing a step of encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

means for performing a step of opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding;
and

means for performing a step of sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening.

al
39-40. (Withdrawn)

41. (Currently Amended) In a telephone network coupled to a first telephone subscriber unit and a second telephone subscriber unit, the first telephone subscriber unit having a first telephone number and associated with a first party by the telephone network, and the second telephone subscriber unit having a second telephone number and associated with a second party by the telephone network, the telephone network including a central telephone office for performing a step of receiving a telephone call from the first telephone subscriber unit to the telephone network over a first communication channel responsive to the first telephone subscriber unit originating the telephone call to the second telephone subscriber unit through the telephone network, the telephone network including a service control point for performing a step of determining that the second party subscribes to a speech-based caller identification service provided by the telephone network responsive to the step of receiving the telephone call, an article in the telephone network comprising:

a computer-readable data storage medium;

means recorded on the computer-readable data storage medium for performing a step of retrieving text information, representing caller identification information of the first party, from a database stored in a network memory device responsive to the step of determining;

means recorded on the computer-readable data storage medium for performing a step of converting the text information into symbols, representing the caller identification information of the first party, responsive to the step of retrieving; and

means recorded on the computer-readable data storage medium for performing a step of encoding the symbols to form a data stream representing the caller identification information of the first party;

wherein the central telephone office further performing steps of:

al. placing the first telephone subscriber unit on hold responsive to the step of determining;

sending a ringing signal to the first telephone subscriber unit over the first communication channel responsive to the step of placing;

opening a second communication channel between the telephone network and the second telephone subscriber unit responsive to the step of encoding; and

sending the data stream from the telephone network to the second telephone subscriber unit over the second communication channel responsive to the step of opening.

42-48 (Withdrawn)
